



Thru well-kept arbors fruitlessly I stray'd  
In quest of respite from the causeless woes  
That throng the weary spirit, and invade  
The mind too seldom dreamless with repose.

Not neat-hedg'd path, nor garden's radiant grace,  
Nor crystal fountain playing o'er the green,  
Could cheer my heart, or from my soul efface  
The tragedy of things that might have been.

The orchard boughs, bedeck'd with flow'rs of spring,  
The verdant lawns, with skillful labor shorn,  
To me no joy nor grateful thrill could bring;  
In tears I came, and linger'd but to mourn.

One day, in idleness, my footsteps found  
The weed-chok'd slope that leads to sylvan deeps  
Where leafy carpets clothe th' untrodden ground,  
And Nature, unadorn'd, her palace keeps.

'Twas there, in regions to mankind unknown,  
Where swamp and brake benignant spirits hide,  
I stood at last, with Nature's God alone,  
And gain'd the respite that the world deny'd.

[image]

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